

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-14 EPA-04 HUD-02 COME-00
DOTE-00 HEW-06 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00
PM-05 ICA-20 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 /144 W
-----040405 012045Z /70

P 012021Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2471

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USOECD

FOR OES/GLASOE AND BLANCHARD, EUR/RPE, PASS EPA FOR
BRACKEN AND FULLER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, OECD
SUBJECT: PART II PROGRAM FOR STRENGTHENING INTER-
NATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE CONTROL OF CHEMICALS

REF: (A) PARIS 12993, (B) PARIS 13752

1. SUMMARY: MISSION HAS RECEIVED ENVIRONMENT SEC-
RETARIAT LETTER ENV/D/88 ANNOUNCING PREPARATORY
MEETING FOR PART II CHEMICALS PROJECT ON 21-23 JUNE
1978. LETTER ANNEXES INCLUDE DRAFT DECISION OF
COUNCIL ESTABLISHING THREE-YEAR PART II PROGRAM,
ITS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS OF
THE FOUR SELECTED PROJECTS, PROPOSED EFFORTS FOR
FIRST YEAR, AND ESTIMATED FIRST YEAR BUDGET TOTALLING
3,821,000 FF. COPIES OF DOCUMENT POUCHED TO GLASOE,
BLANCHARD AND FULLER ON MAY 29. HEADS OF DEL MEET-
ING ON MAY 24 WAS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO RODERICK
PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF CONTENTS OF LETTER,
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EXCHANGE OF NFORMATION AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.
SECRETARIAT REQUESTS NAMES OF U.S. DELEGATION TO
JUNE MEETING BEFORE JUNE 15. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARIAT LETTER AND ANNEXES REPRESENT
SYNTHESIS OF SUCCESSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DE-
CISIONS OF APRIL STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE, CHEMICALS

GROUP (REF A) AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (REF B). OBJECTIVES OF JUNE 21-23 PREPARATORY MEETING ARE AS FOLLOWS: DISCUSS AND AGREE ON STATUTES AND PROJECTS OF THREE-YEAR PART II ACTIVITY AND FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION; AGREE ON FIRST YEAR BUDGET; AND DEVELOP COST SHARING FORMULA (DEPENDING ON PARTICIPATION OF MEMBER COUNTRIES).

3. FOLLOWING AGREEMENT ON ABOVE ITEMS, SECRETARY GENERAL ON REQUEST OF MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL PROPOSE TO COUNCIL THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF PART II PROGRAM. A COUNCIL DRAFT DECISION IS PROVIDED WHICH ESTABLISHES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND ITS FUNCTIONS, AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES, SPECIFIES WORKING RELATIONS AND PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, AND PROPOSES A THREE-YEAR DURATION WITH PROVISION FOR COUNCIL REVIEW BEFORE EXPIRATION. UPON ENDORSEMENT BY COUNCIL, PROGRAM WILL COME INTO EFFECT. SECRETARIAT PROPOSES AN OPTIMISTIC TARGET DATE OF OCTOBER 1978, NOTING THAT ALL THE REQUIRED AND AGREED FUNDS NEED NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME FOR PROJECTS TO BEGIN. THIS REFLECTS SECRETARIAT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONCERN BY COUNTRIES THAT DUE TO DIFFERENT NATIONAL BUDGET CYCLES AND TIME REQUIRED FOR GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES TO COMMIT FUNDS, MORE TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DELIVER NATIONAL

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CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. SECRETARIAT REQUESTS THAT DELEGATES TO JUNE 21-23 MEETING BE PREPARED TO INDICATE THEIR GOVERNMENT'S WISHES ON CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN PART II PROGRAM, SPECIFICALLY ON STATUTES AND PROGRAM CONTENT, FIRST YEAR'S WORK (INCLUDING COUNTRY PARTICIPATION POSSIBLY AS LEAD COUNTRY), BUDGET, AND SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

5. PART II PROGRAM CONSISTS OF FOUR PROJECTS (A) GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICES, (B) INFORMATION EXCHANGE, (C) CONFIDENTIALITY AND (D) INTERNATIONAL

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DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00
PM-05 ICA-20 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 /144 W
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GLOSSARY. PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS AND TASKS ARE BELIEVED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH AGREEMENTS REACHED IN RECENT CHEMICALS GROUP AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

6. FIRST YEAR'S WORK PROGRAM FOR THE FOUR PROJECTS IS CONSISTENT WITH GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS AND PROVIDES FOR CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY IN ASSIGNING PRIORITIES AND ADJUSTING RAPIDITY OF START UP OF PROJECTS. THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE TIED DOWN BY PREPARATORY MEETING.

7. PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FIRST YEAR, EXCEEDING \$800,000, WILL BE UNACCEPTABLE TO INTERESTED COUNTRIES AND WILL HAVE TO BE RIGOROUSLY DEBATED AND REDUCED. ESTIMATE DOES NOT PROVIDE DETAILED BREAK-DOWNS AND JUSTIFICATION OF MAN-MONTH FIGURES. RECOMMEND U.S. DEL TO JUNE MEETING DEVELOP DETAILED BUDGET ESTIMATES AS REQUESTED OF U.S. DEL TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON APRIL 27TH BY AMBASSADOR SALZMAN.

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8. MISSION ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. CONSIDER PROPOSING U.S. EXPERTS FOR NEW POSTS SUPPORTING PART II PROGRAM. AN A-5 POSITION AS HEAD OF COMBINED CHEMICALS STAFF IS IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET. WE EXPECT VIGOROUS COMPETITION FOR THIS INFLUENTIAL POSITION WITHIN SECRETARIAT AND AMONG PARTICIPATING

COUNTRIES.

9. HEADS OF DEL SPECIAL MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY DEPUTY SEC GEN ELDIN WHO EXPLAINED IN OPENING REMARKS THAT PURPOSE WAS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS, NOT TO TAKE ACTION OR MAKE DECISIONS. DR. RODERICK THEN PRESENTED HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF CHEMICALS SITUATION, STRESSING THE SUCCESSIVE CLARIFICATION OF COUNTRY INTERESTS IN THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE, THE APRIL 18-20 CHEMICALS GROUP MEETING AND THE APRIL 24-26 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING. HE EXPLAINED THE ADVANTAGES OF THE PART II ARRANGEMENT FOR PURSUING THE ADDITIONAL WORK DESIRED AND AGREED UPON BY COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF FLEXIBILITY, RELIEF OF PART I CHEMICALS BUDGET, DIRECT BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, EARLY RESPONSIVENESS, AND POTENTIAL FOR BENEFICIAL HARMONIZATION IN VIEW OF EXISTING AND PENDING LEGISLATION. HE BRIEFLY DESCRIBED CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FOUR PROJECTS AND THEN PROCEEDED TO A POINT BY POINT EXPLANATION OF HIS LETTER AND ANNEXES.

10. ANTICIPATING COUNTRY REMARKS WHICH FOLLOWED, RODERICK STATED HIS HOPE THAT COUNTRIES WILL EXPRESS THEIR INTERESTS AND INTENTIONS AT JUNE PREPARATORY MEETINGS WITHOUT NECESSARILY MAKING FUNDING COMMIT-
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MENTS AT THAT TIME. COUNTRIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO "OIN EARLY AND PAY LATER" ACCORDING TO RODERICK. HE ALSO PROJECTED STRONG WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PART I AND PART II CHEMICALS PROGRAMS, BY MEANS OF SHARED SECRETARIAT, TIGHT MANAGEMENT, AND CONSECUTIVE SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS TO SAVE TIME AND TRAVEL COSTS OF PARTICIPANTS.

11. MR. ELDIN FOLLOWED WITH A STATEMENT ON THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM, ITS INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE AND THE NEED TO CONSERVE AND SHARE THE SCARCE RESOURCES OF QUALIFIED TOXICOLOGISTS AND LABORATORIES. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HARMFUL NON-TARIFF BARRIERS WOULD RESULT FROM NON-HARMONIZED NATIONAL ACTIONS.

12. THE DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED WAS GENERALLY POORLY FOCUSED AND REFLECTED LACK OF PREPARATION AND BACKGROUND UNDERSTANDING OF CERTAIN HEADS OF DEL. SEVERAL DECLARED THEMSELVES UNPREPARED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT, OTHERS STATED THEY HAD NO INSTRUC-

TIONS FROM CAPITALS; ONE COUNTRY ASKED WHY THERE HAD

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DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00
PM-05 ICA-20 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 /144 W
-----040305 012050Z /70

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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NOT BEEN A PRIOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
OF SUBJECT; OTHERS WERE CONCERNED TO HOLD BUDGET
DOWN, AND A FEW CLAIMED THAT TIGHT TIME SCHEDULE
WOULD PREVENT COMMITMENTS IN JUNE. THERE WERE
SEVERAL PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, ITS REPORTING RESPONSIBILI-
TIES, AND THE DANGERS OF PROLIFERATING ORGANIZATIONS
AND BY-PASSING EXISTING CHEMICALS GROUP AND EN-
VIRONMENT COMMITTEE. THERE WERE ALSO SEVERAL
POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE STATEMENTS FROM NORWAY,
SWEDEN, U.K., JAPAN AND U.S. MR. ELDIN EXPLAINED
AUTONOMY OF OECD PART II PROGRAMS WHICH REPORT TO
COUNCIL (USING IEA, CERI AND NEA AS EXAMPLES). HE
REPEATED THAT PURPOSE OF PRESENT MEETING WAS MERELY
TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK
QUESTIONS. HE ENCOURAGED DELEGATIONS TO CONTINUE
DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARIAT AND THEN ADJOURNED THE
MEETING.

13. IT WAS CLEAR FROM THIS MEETING THAT, AT LEAST
AT THIS TIME, TOP LEVEL OF SEVERAL OECD DELEGATIONS
HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY BRIEFED AND ORIENTED BY
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THE COUNTRY SPECIALISTS WHO ATTEND THE CHEMICALS
GROUP AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS. MISSION
RECOMNENDS THAT THE USDEL AT JUNE MEETING URGE
OTHER DELS TO MAKE STRONG EFFORTS TO CORRECT THIS
CHRONIC PROBLEM WELL BEFORE COUNCIL ACTS ON PRO-
POSAL TO ESTABLISH PART II PROGRAM.
SALZMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PLANNING MEETINGS, CHEMICALS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, TRADE CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS17498
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780230-0028
Format: TEL
From: PARIS USOECD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806107/aaaadnzl.tel
Line Count: 289
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4fcf417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PARIS 12993, 78 PARIS 13752
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2160308
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PART II PROGRAM FOR STRENGTHENING INTER- NATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE CONTROL OF CHEMICALS
TAGS: SENV, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4fcf417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014